September 1, 2005

Mayor & City Council County-City Building Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

RE: Report of Claims Against the City of Lincoln for August 16 through August 31, 2005

Dear Mayor & Council:

The following is a report of claims against the City of Lincoln which have been disposed of, or are pending, for the period of August 16 through August 31, 2005. This report will describe the claims and the dispositions or status of these claims.

## **ALLOWED/SETTLED CLAIMS:**

**Robin Synhorst** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, for property that was seized when she was arrested. The property has been located and returned to her.

Colin Schumacher filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$814.28 for damage incurred to vehicle when it was struck by a Public Works vehicle. This claim has been **settled** by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$811.28.

**Joe Wilcox** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$1,101.19 for damage incurred to vehicle when it was struck by a StarTran bus. This claim has been **settled** by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$1,101.19.

**Stacey Ault** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$476.10 for damage incurred to vehicle when it was struck by a police vehicle. This claim has been **settled** by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$476.10.

**Jennifer Hurley** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$500.00 for damage incurred to window of vehicle when it was struck by a rock thrown from a weed trimmer that was being operated by a City employee. This claim has been reviewed by this office and has been **allowed** in the amount of \$500.00.

## **DENIED CLAIMS:**

**Prairie Homebuilders, Inc.** filed a claim during the month of September, 2004, in the amount of \$105.00 for property damage incurred as the result of a rock thrown from a City mower. This claim has been **denied** for the reason that claimant has refused offer of settlement.

**Patricia Giese** filed a claim during the month of February, 2005, in the amount if \$668.74 for damage incurred to her vehicle as the result of an accident involving a Public Works vehicle. This claim has been **denied** for lack of follow-up by the claimant.

**Timothy Meints** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged injuries and damages incurred when claimant was allegedly falsely detained and subjected to an assault and battery by Lincoln police. This claim has been reviewed by this office and has been **denied**.

**State Farm Insurance Co.** (Claim No. 27-7708-188/Christine Gillespie, Insured) filed a subrogation claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$3,575.73 for damage incurred to insured's vehicle as the result of an accident involving a Public Works vehicle. This claim has been reviewed by this office and has been **denied**.

**Glena Jacobs** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$984.88 for damage incurred to her vehicle as the result of an accident involving a Lincoln police vehicle. This claim has been **denied** by the Risk Management Office.

**John Lowe** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a Lincoln Public School bus. This claim has been reviewed by this office and has been **denied**.

## **PENDING CLAIMS:**

County of Lancaster filed a claim during the month of October, 2001, for medical expenses incurred as the result of an arrest by Lincoln police of an individual who was taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries allegedly incurred during his arrest. The County alleges that they inadvertently paid for part of the medical expenses. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**State Farm Insurance Company (Richard D. Scholl, Insured)** filed a subrogation claim during the month of January, 2004, for expenses incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle driven by Tammy Scholl and a Lincoln police vehicle. **Tammy J. Scholl** filed a claim during the month of August, 2004, in an unspecified amount for injuries incurred as the result of the accident with the police vehicle. These claims are under review and **pending**.

**Nicholas Starr Becker** filed a claim during the month of August, 2004, in the amount of \$100,000 for alleged injury incurred during claimant's arrest by Lincoln police. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Fred Fleming** filed a claim during the month of September, 2004, in an unspecified amount for damage incurred to his driveway as the result of a water main break. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Brainard HVAC, Inc.** filed a claim during the month of January, 2005, for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a StarTran bus. The property damage portion of this claim has been **settled** in the amount of \$20,500. The injury portion of this claim is **pending**.

**Travis Kimathi** filed a claim during the month of January, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged injury incurred as the result of an accident involving a Fire Department vehicle. **Abayomi Cousins**, who was a passenger in the vehicle driven by Mr. Kimathi, has filed a claim for medical expenses incurred as a result of the accident. **Geico Direct** has filed a subrogation claim. These claims are under review and are **pending**.

**Kim Roehrs-Lary** filed a claim during the month of January, 2005, in the amount of \$100,000 for injury incurred when claimant allegedly fell in a hole located in alley behind Bethany Christian Church. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Sheryl Theriault** filed a claim during the month of January, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a StarTran bus. The property damage portion of this claim has been settled by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$7,782.84. The personal injury portion of this claim is **pending**.

**Eric Kowalski** filed a claim during the month of May, 2005, in the amount of \$200 for damage incurred to tire as the result of a pothole. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Maria Arellano** filed a claim during the month of June, 2005, in the amount of \$660.24 for damage allegedly incurred to her vehicle as the result of an accident involving a City vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Kevin and Lauren Connick** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for expenses incurred to repair sewer. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Troy and Shari Stonacek** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged damages incurred due to alleged failure to provide claimants with proper base flood elevations prior to construction of claimants' home. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**George and Lori Bristol** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged damages incurred due to alleged failure to provide claimants with proper base flood elevations prior to construction of claimants' home. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Thomas and Amy Banderas** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged damages incurred due to alleged failure to provide claimants with proper base flood elevations prior to construction of claimants' home. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Bradley and Jennifer Sheaff** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged damages incurred due to alleged failure to provide claimants with proper base flood elevations prior to construction of claimants' home. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Ettamae Branstetter** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in an unspecified amount for injury incurred when the automated door at the Eisley Library struck her causing her to fall. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Beverly Loseke** filed a claim during the month of July, 2005, in the amount of \$512.32 for damage incurred to her vehicle when a gust of wind blew a street construction sign into her vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

James L. Wortman/J&M Foundations filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a Public Works vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Melissa Eckert** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for alleged injury incurred while claimant was a passenger on a StarTran bus. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Courtney Wrick** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a Parks & Recreation van. The property damage claim was settled by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$3,500. The personal injury portion of this claim is **pending**.

**Stacy Mueller** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$1,299.50 for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a Lincoln police vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

Cincinnnati Insurance (Hamton Development Services, Inc., Insured) filed a subrogation claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$92,997.51 for damages allegedly incurred as the result of an improperly installed water meter. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Richard Kister** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving a StarTran bus. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

American Family Insurance Group (Claim No. 00-071-423264-0422/Shannon Johnson, Insured) filed a subrogation claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of an accident involving insured's vehicle and a Lincoln police vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Donna Frye** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in an unspecified amount for injury allegedly incurred as the result of a fall on sidewalk. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Dorothy Porath** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$685.53 for medical expenses incurred on behalf of her minor daughter, **Sarah Porath**, who was a passenger in a vehicle that was involved in an accident with a Parks & Rec. vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Teri Chambers** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$837.76 for medical expenses incurred on behalf of her minor daughter, **Aivree Chambers**, who was a passenger in a vehicle that was involved in an accident with a Parks & Rec. vehicle. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

**Andrew and JoAnn Russell** filed a claim during the month of August, 2005, in the amount of \$4,506.17 for damage incurred to vehicle as the result of a fallen tree. This claim is under review and is **pending**.

## PENDING TORT LITIGATION:

**Jason Blair** filed a claim during the month of December, 2000, for injuries incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident which was allegedly related to a police chase. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on September 17, 2001. Counsel for claimant filed a petition in the Lancaster County District Court on September 26, 2001. Plaintiff prays for judgment in the amount of \$10,875.23, general damages, and costs of action. Litigation is **pending**.

**Robert Blankenship** filed a claim during the month of December, 2000, for injuries incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident which was allegedly related to a police chase. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on September 17, 2001. Counsel for claimant filed a petition in the Lancaster County District Court on December 20, 2001. Litigation is **pending**.

Sandra Mueller filed a claim during the month of January, 2003, in the amount of \$650,000 for alleged damages incurred as the result of an alleged incident involving a vehicle operated by a Lincoln Electric System employee. Sandra Mueller's husband, **Duane Mueller**, has filed a claim in the amount of \$250,000 for alleged damages incurred as a result of the alleged incident. These claims were referred to counsel for Lincoln Electric System. Counsel for the Muellers filed a petition in the Lancaster County District Court on August 5, 2003. Litigation is **pending**.

**James Blake** filed a claim during the month of March, 2002, in the amount of \$10,139.77 for injury incurred when claimant fell into a water meter pit. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on April 29, 2002. Counsel for claimant has filed suit in the Lancaster County District Court naming Kwik Shop, Inc., Lincoln Lease Partners, and the City of Lincoln as Defendants. Litigation is **pending**.

Suzanne Cain filed a claim during the month of July, 2003, in the amount of \$500,000 for injury allegedly incurred as the result of a trip and fall on sidewalk. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on February 2, 2004. American International Recovery, Inc. (Omni Behavioral Health, Insured) filed a subrogation claim during the month of April, 2003, for workers compensation benefits paid on behalf of the insured's employee, Suzanne Cain, as a result of her trip and fall accident. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on February 23, 2004. Counsel for Suzanne Cain filed suit in the Lancaster County District Court on March 10, 2004, naming Gold's Limited Partnership and City of Lincoln, Nebraska as Defendants and Omni Behavioral Health, Inc. and American International Recovery, Inc. as Third-Party Defendants. Litigation is pending.

Neil and April Kringle and Neil and April Kringle on behalf of their minor child, Blake Kringle, filed a claim during the month of May, 2002, in the amount of \$1,000,000 for damages allegedly incurred when Blake Kringle fell off of his bicycle and into a culvert. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on May 12, 2003. Counsel for the Kringles filed suit in the Lancaster County District Court on March 12, 2004. Litigation is **pending**.

**Jeremy Tumbleson** filed a claim during the month of March, 2003, in the amount of \$849.30 for damage incurred to his vehicle as the result of an accident involving a City snow plow. This claim was reviewed by the Risk Management Office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on April 21, 2003. Counsel for Mr. Tumbleson filed suit in the Lancaster County Court on May 21, 2004. Litigation is **pending**.

**Ricky Austin** filed a claim during the month of December, 2003, in the amount of \$500,000 for alleged injury incurred while claimant was in police custody in the back seat of a police vehicle when it was rear-ended by another police vehicle. This claim was withdrawn by counsel for the claimant on June 8, 2004, and suit was filed in the Lancaster County District Court on June 11, 2004. Litigation is **pending**.

**Barbara and Arthur Poppe** filed a claim during the month of November, 2003, in the amount of \$1,000,000 in connection with the death of their daughter, Heather Poppe, as the result of a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle that was driven by a Robin Siefker. Claimants allege that Lincoln police had been notified that Mr. Siefker was likely to be a danger to himself or others, and therefore, claimants allege that Mr. Siefker should have been in police custody at the time of the accident. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on December 5, 2003. Suit was filed in the Lancaster County District Court on November 24, 2004. On February 14, 2005, the Court sustained the City of Lincoln's motion to dismiss. Plaintiff has appealed. Litigation is **pending**.

Allied Insurance (Claim No. 26E29478/Allan Albers, Insured) filed a claim during the month of March, 2004, in the amount of \$1,685.50 for damage incurred to insured's vehicle as the result of an accident involving a City street sweeper. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on December 6, 2004. Allan Albers filed suit in the Lancaster County Court on February 28, 2005. Litigation is pending.

**Donna Lilly and Michael Lilly** filed a claim during the month of September, 2004, against the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, and the Public Building Commission in the amount of \$1,000,000 for alleged damages incurred as the result of injuries Donna Lilly sustained when she allegedly slipped and fell on the steps of the County/City Building, which claimant alleges were ice and snow-covered. The claim against the City of Lincoln was reviewed by this office and denial was approved by the City Council on September 27, 2004. Counsel for Donna and Michael Lilly filed suit in the Lancaster County District Court on March 23, 2005, naming the Public Building Commission, Lancaster County, and the City of Lincoln as Defendants. Plaintiffs are seeking special damages in the amount of \$34,000 and general damages. Litigation is **pending**.

**Roberto Mancilla, Rubia Menendez, and David Mancilla Menendez** filed a claim during the month of May, 2004, in an unspecified amount for damages incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident involving

a Lincoln police vehicle. Counsel for claimants filed suit in the Lancaster County District Court on April 28, 2005, naming Lincoln Police Officer Champoux and the City of Lincoln as Defendants. Plaintiffs are seeking special damages in the amount of \$21,872.55, future medical expenses, and general damages for pain and suffering. Litigation is **pending**.

**Fleet Systems, Inc./William F. Dugan** filed a claim during the month of September, 2004, in the amount of \$1,705.65 for damage incurred to vehicle as the result of an accident involving a StarTran bus. This claim was reviewed by this office and denial of this claim was approved by the City Council on October 11, 2004. Suit has been filed in the Lancaster County Court on May 23, 2005. Litigation is **pending**.

**Raymond Phillips** filed a claim during the month of June, 2004, in the amount of \$30,000 for damages incurred as the result of a motor vehicle accident involving a vehicle driven by a Health Department employee. The property damage portion of this claim was settled by the Risk Management Office in the amount of \$1,680.00. Counsel for claimant filed suit in the Lancaster County Court on June 24, 2005, for alleged personal injury incurred as the result of the accident. Litigation is pending. **American Family Insurance Group** has filed a subrogation claim for medical expenses paid on behalf of its insured, Raymond Phillips. The subrogation claim is **pending**.

Respectfully submitted, James D. Faimon

Assistant City Attorney

JDF/skb

c: Risk Management